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USSR

Reference: 34PDT/T12

1. INTELLIGENCE FROM BAUER
2. CZECH OFFICER TALENT-SPOTTED BY BAUER
(1940)

From: LONDON

To: MOSCOW

No: 998

11th Sept. 40

To DIRECTOR.

BAUER [BAUER][i] has reported [the following:][a]

Out of the Czech contingent a brigade totalling 3,000 men is being formed comprising two infantry battalions, two batteries of 75 mm guns, one company of engineers, one anti-tank company and a reserve group. The brigade commander is General MIROSLAV [ii]; in the past his surname was NAJMAN [iii]. All the senior officers are alleged to have changed their surnames now. The 5 mm [guns][a] were received from the British who are arming themselves with them because they have been [R% received] from SASHA [iv] on an old ranch order. The Secretary for Foreign Affairs RIPKA recently made a speech to the officers. In answer to a question he stated that the U.S.S.R. had been unable to help Czechoslovakia at the appropriate time because of the latter's lack of preparedness for war. BAUER indicates that the junior officers are well-inclined towards the U.S.S.R. [1 group missed] fascist tendencies are predominant among the higher officers. He says that, after seeing the British, other officers whom he knows have formed a good impression of the British Army. He considers that they have mobilised [2 groups garbled] [R% 500,000 men]. [2 groups missed] and the desire to fight. Allegedly

[9 groups missed]

BAUER [R% come] to LONDON for several months. I made an appointment with him in the city of CHESTER not far from his camp [v] for 28th of September. I think I shall send MARK [vi]. I gave him £25 sterling and the British [R% regulations][b]. BAUER knows a Czechoslovakian officer [vii] who is

(cont. overleaf

123

[16 groups missed][d]

264

as: [a] Inserted by translator.

[b] Possibly a garble for "assignment", in which case this would read "an assignment on the British Army".

[c] The signature is probably in the passage missed.

- mts: ✓ [i] BAUER: Lieut. HEIN of the Czech Army. See also MOSCOW's Nos. 450 of 7th September 1940 and 469 of 16th September 1940; and LONDON's Nos. 895 of 16th August 1940 and 1107 of 3rd October 1940.
- ✓ [ii] MIROSLAV: a Czech Christian name rather than a surname.
- ✓ [iii] NAJMAN: Alternative, but less common, forms of this surname are NEJMANN, NAIMAN or NEUMANN (op. PRAGUE Telephone Directory, 1964).
- ✓ [iv] SESHÁ: the United States. This coverword, which is normally an affectionate form of ALEXANDER, is probably formed from the Russian abbreviation for the U.S.A. - SShA (Ess-Sha-A). See also LONDON's Nos. 784 of 18th July 1940, 882 of 14th August 1940, 926 of 23rd August 1940, 947 of 27th August 1940, 1069 of 26th September 1940 and 1112 of 4th October 1940.
- [v] His camp: HEIN was in camp at MALPAS (LONDON's No. 895 of 16th August 1940).
- ✓ [vi] MARK: Unidentified covername; see also LONDON's Nos. 776 of 17th July 1940 (3/HEF/T1472), 798 of 22nd July 1940, 895 of 16th August 1940, 1107 of 3rd October 1940 and 2150 of 6th August 1941 (3/HEF/T1476).
- [vii] Czechoslovakian officer: see also MOSCOW's No. 469 of 16th September 1940.